

REMARKS

The Office Action of 08/07/2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Szymanski. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims recite in part "issuing a NACK signal over the network; by the receiver, in the event that the data packet is not properly received; and retransmitting the data packet onto the network *by at least one of the repeater nodes* upon receipt of the NACK signal." No such feature is taught or suggested by Szymanski.

As described in the BACKGROUND portion of the specification, in the prior art, when a receiver issues a NACK signal, that NACK signal is received by the original transmitter, which then performs retransmission. Such is the case in Szymanski.

In the case of the present invention, a repeater (not the original transmitter) receives the NACK signal and performs retransmission. This approach entails greater complexity in the repeaters but affords several advantages. First, retransmission is off-loaded from the transmitter. Second, and perhaps more importantly, a kind of diversity is introduced such that the retransmission is more likely to be successful. The retransmission can in fact be performed by multiple repeaters, increasing further still the likelihood of successful retransmission.

Szymanski does not so much as make mention of repeaters. Hence, it will be appreciated that Szymanski is typical of the BACKGROUND prior art and does not teach or suggest the present invention.

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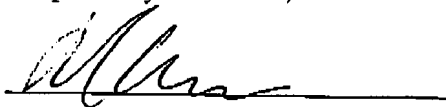
Useful Arts IP

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Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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